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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

May 5, 2000

## Tyndall member receives AETC National Image Award

**Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb**  
325th Fighter Wing  
public affairs

A Team Tyndall NCO was recently recognized at the command level for promoting human rights and doing what is best for the community.

**Master Sgt. Jose J. Hernandez**, 325th Training Squadron international training flight superintendent, was recently honored at the Air Education and Training Command for his efforts in the arena of human rights by receiving the National Image Meritorious Service Award.

This award is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves with significant contributions to their service and nation by their actions in several areas such as:

- Promoting the tenets of civil and human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative ac-

tion, human relations and public service programs.

- Supporting and contributing to advance the civil rights of Hispanics.

- Endorsing the full integration and promotion of minorities and women within the armed forces.

Hernandez, a native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, earned the award in part through his direct interaction with foreign military officers from 19 different countries as the superintendent of the international training flight. The international weapons controller training course emphasizes joint interaction of air sovereignty, counter-drug and air-defense missions for 46 international officers, 48 United States weapons controllers and 204 United States air battle managers annually.

His leadership contributed to improved multi-national opera-

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Tech. Sgt. Scott Thompson

### Cold-water challenge

Senior Airman Turaeza Gebbia, left, and Senior Airman Travis Yuen, Air Combat Command team members from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, get out of the water after the final obstacle course event Sunday during Readiness Challenge VII. For a story and photos on Readiness Challenge see *Pages 8 and 9*.

# DOD revamping, simplifying PCS move process

**Rudi Williams**

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)**—The Department of Defense is revamping and simplifying its permanent-change-of-station process to make it easier, faster, less expensive and less stressful for more than 700,000 service members and their families who move around the world each year.

The initiative is targeted at scrapping mountains of paperwork, eliminating out-of-pocket expenses and creating a user-friendly, Internet-based, personalized, state-of-the-art relocation system.

When the new system is implemented, service members will, among other benefits, save hundreds of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses, spend less time filling out paperwork and visit fewer offices to in- and out-process, according to Stephen Rossetti, Defense Integrated Travel and Relocation Solutions Office director in Arlington, Va.

Rossetti said under the plan, that includes pro-

posals before Congress, service members would be offered no-receipt-required, lump-sum payment for temporary-lodging expenses, temporary-lodging allowances and even a monetary incentive not to ship “junk” cars overseas.

Many service members found a loophole that circumvents the requirement by some services that only those who ship a vehicle overseas can ship one back home. Some service members ship “junk” vehicles with major mechanical problems overseas so they’ll be eligible to ship a car home when their tour is over.

“Military people are ordered to move. They have no choice. We need to do all we can to make it easier,” Rossetti said.

If approved, the cash incentive would equate to a percentage of the cost of shipping the “junk” car overseas. The shipping cost often exceeds the value of the vehicle. The incentive proposal would guarantee that service members could ship vehicles back home, thereby eliminating unneces-

sary shipping costs for the government.

Service members and DOD civilian employees ship more than 75,000 cars to and from overseas locations each year. The only requirement is that the vehicle be in working condition.

One of the biggest concerns is out-of-pocket expenses for PCS moves, Rossetti noted. “Surveys have shown that people in the military don’t get as much in their reimbursements as they’re spending,” he said. “We want to give them the wherewithal to make the most of the money they get and eliminate out-of-pocket expenses.”

Service members in grades E-5 to E-9 incur nonreimbursable expenses of more than \$1,000 each time they move. That amount increases for higher ranks, Rossetti said.

“Our people are captives to the process,” Rossetti said. “We want to flip the current process controls on its back and have the traveler controlling the process.

“There also is a vast network of relocation

experts in DOD,” he said. “We need to empower them with tools to help our people.”

Rossetti noted that revamping and simplifying the PCS system is an important objective of Secretary of Defense Williams S. Cohen and Deputy Secretary Rudy de Leon and is a key aspect of the effort to reform business processes in DOD. “They realize the difficulty of the moving process in the military and asked us to make it easier,” Rossetti said. “We see that as a quality-of-life objective that’s important for retention and readiness.”

DOD is overhauling pieces of the process, including travel and movement of household goods, he said. “We want to ... raise the ante to solve the difficult PCS process for our people,” Rossetti said.

He said 85 percent of the people who move are dissatisfied with the relocation process. They’re upset because their household goods are lost or

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# AFPC announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — Federal employees will once again have the opportunity to participate in or make changes to their current election during the Thrift Savings Plan open season May 15 - July 31.

TSP is a federal civilian employee voluntary retirement savings and investment plan with three funds available to the employee: G - Government Securities Index Investment Fund, F - Bond Index Fund, and the C - Common Stocks Index Fund. Participants can choose to invest in any combination of the three funds.

“Two main features of TSP are before-tax savings and tax-deferred earnings,” explained Christine Watkins, Air Force Personnel civilian personnel operations employee relations specialist. “This means the contributions made to TSP come out of the participant’s pay before taxes, and the earnings are not taxed until the money is received.”

It’s never too late to start thinking about the future, said Sonja Crownover, Tyndall Civilian Personnel officer. “The Thrift Savings Plan is a vital part of a Federal Employees’ Retirement System and a Civil Service Retirement

System in the overall retirement plan for an employees’ future,” she said.

Other benefits of the TSP program include a choice of investment options, interfund transfers, loans from the employee’s own contributions and earnings, in-service withdrawals and portable benefits if the individual leaves federal service.

“Contribution limits set by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board are based upon an employee’s retirement system,” Watkins said.

“Employees covered by the Federal Employees’ Retirement System can contribute up to 10 percent of their basic pay each pay period and the government will provide matching funds up to 4 percent. In addition, the government will contribute an automatic 1 percent of an individual’s basic pay to their account each pay period whether they contribute or not. This brings the maximum government contribution to 5 percent.

“Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System can contribute up to 5 percent of basic pay each pay period, but do not receive any agency contributions,” she said.

Additional information on TSP

funds can be found in the Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees. A copy of this booklet and other TSP information can be accessed through the TSP homepage at: [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

Employees whose base is serviced by the Air Force Personnel Center will make their TSP election or change through the BEST automated system by phone or web no later than July 31. The system is available 21 hours a day, seven days a week. It is unavailable from midnight to 3 a.m. Central Standard Time each evening for systems backup. In addition, the Employee Benefits Information System web site is unavailable from 7-10 a.m. on Sundays for maintenance.

Employees can access the web-automated system by clicking on the related site listed below, or access the telephone-automated system or a benefits counselor by calling (800)997-2378. Hearing Impaired employees can access a benefits counselor by calling (800)382-0893 or 565-2276.

Benefits counselors are available Monday - Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The best times to reach a counselor are between 8-11 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

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tions coordination and has strengthened world-wide relations, said Capt. Joseph M. Gilley, 325th TRS director of training. “He always brings a positive influence to the office,” he said. “His insight in dealing with the foreign military is invaluable.”

Hernandez also puts his beliefs into action abroad. Deploying to Columbia, his experience and versatility allowed for smooth coordination between joint surveillance agencies and the Colombian national police anti-narcotics division to support the joint chief of staff directed counter-drug operations, Gilley said. “During this deployment, he was lauded by the joint planning assistance team commander from Venezuela for outstanding training support as they transitioned assets from Panama to Aruba,” he said.

He has also been a key leader in the Tyndall and Bay County Hispanic community, Gilley said. “Master Sergeant

Hernandez served as committee chairman and led the committee to successfully celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month,” he said. He promoted Hispanic awareness on and off base by hosting a luncheon and coordinating with the American Red Cross in collecting relief funds to purchase food for hurricane victims in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.”



**Master Sgt. Jose J. Hernandez**

Hernandez accomplished all this because it is what he likes to do. “I always enjoy volunteering for organizations that help the community,” said Hernandez, who also won the award in 1997. “Helping is in my nature. If there is an event or organization that needs my help, I’ll do it. I was really surprised the commander put me in for the award — I really appreciate it.”

The award could not have gone to a better person, Gilley said. “I think this award is an outstanding accomplishment. He works very hard and sets a good example for others to follow. It’s great to see him recognized for what he has done.”

# AAFES recalls newborn, infant apparel

**DALLAS (AFPN)** — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with Healthtex/VF Playwear, Inc. of Reidsville, N.C. and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is voluntarily recalling various styles of newborn and infant apparel. Metal grippers (snaps) can come loose from the fabric and present a potential choking hazard to children younger than three years old.

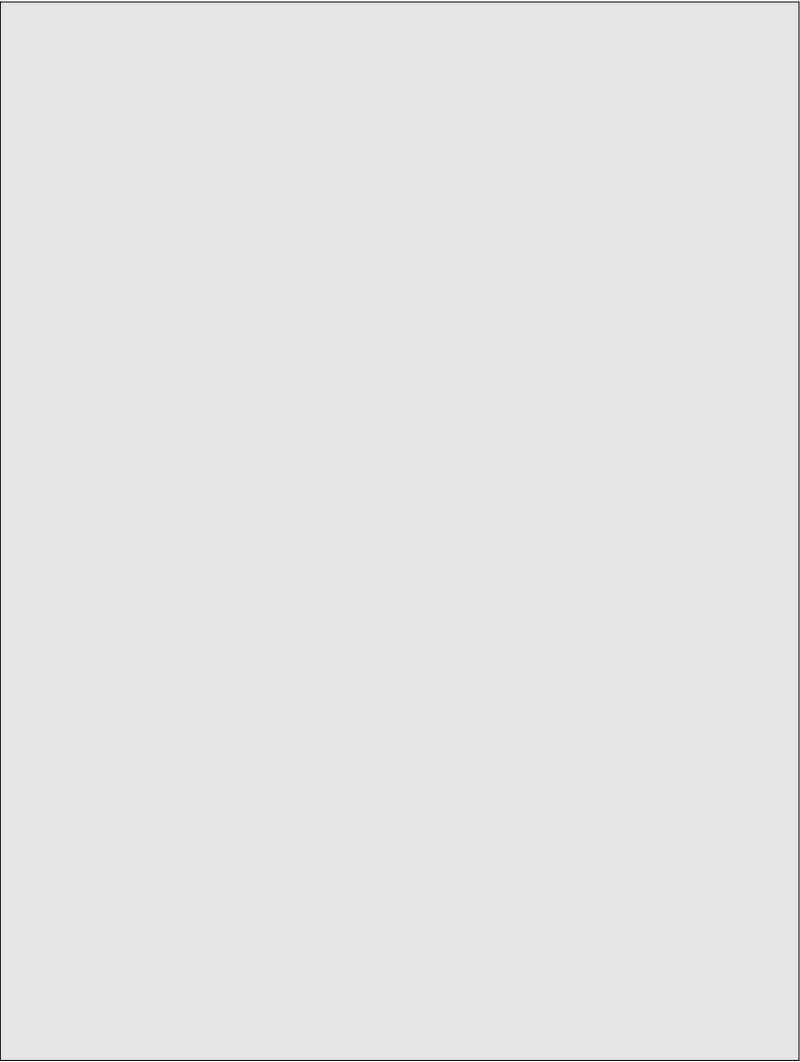
There are no reported injuries so far.

Healthtex produced all recalled styles under the “Little Impressions” and “Healthtex” labels and offered them for sale during the 1999 fall and holiday

season. The company offered the clothing in sizes three to 24 months. AAFES received the following styles for sale, **HS1196R, HS1197F, HS1199P, HS1296N, HS1297Y, HS1298P, HS2197N, HS2295G, HS2296P, HS2297N, HS2299N, HS3196R, HS3296N, HS3297Y, HS3299R, and HS4298B.**

The recalled clothing contains a permanent label with the style number and the wording, “Made in Thailand.”

Customers in the United States should return the garment to VF Playwear, Inc., 310 Rockingham Dr., Reidsville, N.C. 27320 or contact the supplier at (800) 554-7637, or return it to the Tyndall AAFES exchange for a refund or exchange.



# Tyndall celebrates law week, our nation’s legal system

**Maj. Cecile M. Scoon**  
*325th Fighter Wing*  
*assistant staff judge advocate*

The first week of May has been set aside to celebrate the rule of law and the legal protections that the American legal system has provided to people in this country. The idea was created by the American Bar Association and promulgated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. In 1961, Congress designated the first week

in May as Law Week. Since then, local bar associations have been celebrating Law Week by hosting numerous educational programs. This year, the theme of law week is “celebrate your freedom, democracy and diversity.” To further this theme of celebrating diversity and democracy and the many benefits of due process that our system of American jurisprudence provides, the local Bay County Bar Association has hosted an essay contest for high

school students and a poster contest for elementary school students. The winning entries are planned to be published in the *News Herald*. The local bar association is also hosting a 3.1-mile run, the Race Judicata, at 8:00 a.m. (registration at 7 a.m.) and a half- mile fun run at 9 a.m. on Saturday starting at the steps of the Bay County Courthouse. Pre-registration for the race will be available. For more information, call Mike Dickey, 785-7454.

The military legal system is also part of the overall American legal landscape and provides almost identical legal and due-process protections to military personnel as are enjoyed by civilians in the general population. In fact, in some instances, an active-duty person has more rights under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice than a civilian. A military member who is suspected of a crime will be advised of the crime he or she is suspected of, in addition to being told they

have the right to a lawyer, can be silent and that anything they say will be held against them. Civilians are only told about their right to a lawyer, that they can remain silent and anything they say may be held against them. The military legal system parallels the civilian legal system by design to ensure those in the military share almost the same rights as civilians and that good order and discipline can be maintained while preserving due process to military members. The top legal officer in the Air Force, Maj. Gen. William A. Moorman, has also addressed Law Week and the military legal system. The American Bar Association selected “Speak Up for Democracy and Diversity, “ as their Law Day 2000 theme, Moorman said. It recognizes that although we are a nation of different heritages, different beliefs and different abilities, our democratic form of government has allowed us to craft a rule of law providing all Americans with freedom and national security. Diversity is the strength of our nation and our Air Force reflects this strength in our greatest asset — our people. The UCMJ, as a living and evolving document, has played a critical role through the years in the nurturing and protecting of our diverse and talented armed forces, he said. There is a real synergy between the ABA’s theme and our own celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the UCMJ. Moorman concluded his comments by commending those who support the rule of law and the diversity and democracy of our nation. The base legal office reiterates that message for Law Week and the entire year.



**All you  
can eat  
pizza  
buffet**

**Sports Page  
Pizza Pub**

**10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Monday and Thursday**



# Volunteer: Call to action; a few of hours of volunteer work can make a lifetime of difference

★  
★ **A View from the Top**  
★ By Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton  
★

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)** — During 30-plus years of service, I've discovered a few constants about Air Force people. The vast majority live and breathe our core values of integrity, excellence and service. And, overwhelmingly, Air Force people are generous with their time and money when it comes to helping those in need.

Remember the adage — seemingly as old as military service — never volunteer for anything. That certainly hasn't applied to your and my Air Force. Whether it's the Combined Federal Campaign or the Air Force Assistance Fund Drive, we make or often exceed our goals. For many Air Force people, "service" is not just a nice idea but a call to action — a call to volunteer. How can you make a difference? Consider these examples of "service before self."

**1st Lt. Lori Vessels**, 325th Maintenance Squadron quality assurance evaluation chief at Tyndall, serves as the Habitat for Humanity

Company Grade Officers' Council coordinator. Since November, Vessels and 30 other Tyndall members have worked more than 500 hours in their spare time to help the non-profit organization build low-cost homes for low-income families.

**Rita Daniels**, the spouse of an instructor pilot at Laughlin AFB, Texas, keeps a full schedule as a volunteer — Girl Scout leader, Officer Spouses' Club treasurer, Family Support volunteer — as well as being a working mother of three teenagers. Selected as Air Education and Training Command's volunteer parent representative to the Department of Defense Healthy Parenting Initiative Design Conference, she plays an active and valuable role in discussions about present and future healthy parenting in our military communities. By the way, the 47th Flying Training Wing chose her as Volunteer of the Year for 1999.

**George "Happy" Irby**, a long-time employee of the consolidated club at Columbus AFB, Miss., started "The Happy Christmas Fund" in 1958 to help make a better life for people with special needs. Every year, more than 75 volunteers work with the fund at Columbus and Lowndes County, providing clothing, school supplies and

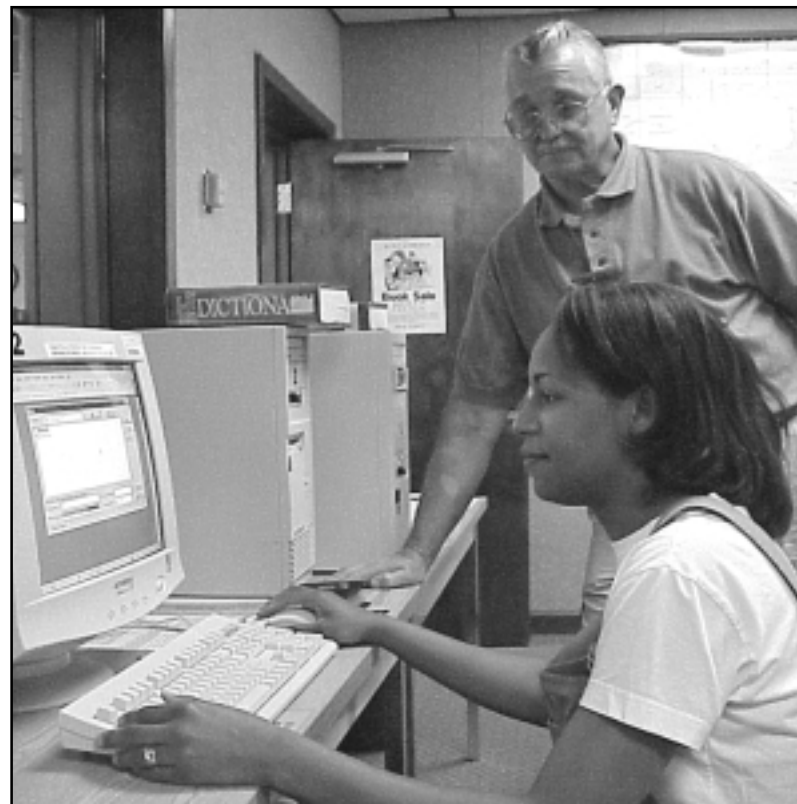
Christmas gifts to children who otherwise might not receive gifts. The volunteers also prepare and deliver fruit baskets to scores of people who are alone during the holidays.

There are thousands of AETC people like these three examples who share a common belief — being a volunteer is good for everyone, both the giver and receiver, and makes the world a better place.

Mentoring is also a great way to invest in our future. I can think of no better role models for America's youth than the dedicated, hard-working, motivated men and women of our military services.

Volunteers also keep our military in touch with the people we serve and defend. Volunteerism strengthens our "sense of community" as well as helps others who don't have any military experience understand who we are and why we serve in our armed forces.

Volunteers are people with action in their veins and an attitude that one person can make a difference. No contribution is too small, and your efforts, combined with others, can make a big impact. And, your volunteer action may inspire others to pitch in. The old adage is wrong in today's world — look for ways to volunteer!



Master Sgt. Rob Fuller

**John Farquhar, 325th Services Squadron library technician, assists Marcia Hernandez, wife of Airman 1st Class David Hernandez, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal apprentice, with research tips for a college term paper. The library has volunteer openings for people to help out with everything from storytelling to checking out materials. For more information, call Ken Horton at the family support center, 283-4204.**

## ●MOVE from Page 1

destroyed, and they waste a lot of time in-processing at the library, veterinary clinic, commissary, personnel office and a host of other places. It's estimated that more than 40,000 man-hours are wasted each year in- and out-processing.

The plan will incorporate the "one-stop-shopping concept," with the Internet as the integrator. "The web is transforming America, and we want it to transform this process," Rossetti said.

"We want to have the computer take care of service members during their move," he said. "We have something working in the lab called P-3 Quantum, a personal PCS page. When you key your name, Social Security number and personal identification number into the system, your personal profile comes up. The computer knows already, based on our manpower database, who you are, how many kids you have and all the other information that used to go on nearly 100 forms."

The Internet enables relocation personnel to tailor the PCS process to fit each individual's moving situation, Rossetti noted. When the personal profile is validated, the traveler keys in the "from/to" destination and the computer will tell them how much money they'll get for the move. If they select the lump sum option, the money will be electronically transferred to the service member's bank account.

Preparing for household goods shipments will be made easy and take the guesswork out of figuring weight allowances. All service members will have to

do is click on a piece of furniture and its approximate weight will be shown and automatically added to the inventory. The information will be stored on the personal web page. All the service member has to do on the return trip is delete and add items.

A personalized travel calendar for in- and out-processing will have information pertaining to the losing unit, gaining unit, family information, date of departure, moving pets, firearms, and shipping vehicles. Information will also be provided about updating drivers' licenses, passports, drivers manuals from foreign countries, settling claims, the defense travel system, entitlements, per diem rates and other information needed for a PCS move.

Rossetti said changing the PCS-move process is not only a quality-of-life issue, but a retention and readiness objective. "If you allow people to get on the ground quicker, they're more productive in terms of use of their time. And, if a PCS isn't so painful, maybe people will be more likely to re-enlist," he said.

Rossetti emphasized that the proposal doesn't increase temporary lodging and temporary housing allowances. "It allows an up-front payment that can be used for any expenses," he said. "For example, it wouldn't require receipts. So if you have an alternative to staying in temporary lodging, you can stay with a relative or friend and use the money for something else associated with a PCS move. What we care about is that you get to your duty station on time and with the least pain."

# Viewpoint

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129, or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

## Safety stats

Category	'00	'99	Trend
On duty	0	0	0
Off duty	2	1	+1
Traffic	0	0	0
Sports	0	1	-1
Fatalities	0	0	0
DUIs	3	5	-2



## Commander's corner:

# Contingency skills shine during RC VII

## Kudos, thanks to all challenge participants

**Brig. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III**  
325th Fighter Wing commander

Whew! This has been a busy but *GREAT* week! The culmination of many months of hard work and preparation, **Readiness Challenge VII** wraps up tonight with its concluding awards banquet headlined by Air Force Chief of Staff **Gen. Michael E. Ryan**. It was a great competition, and I would like to congratulate all of the teams for an outstanding showing. The skills demonstrated throughout the week are essential to our Expeditionary Air Force and our ability to project air power across the globe. Teams from across the AF showed us just how *fast* they can turn a barren field into a bustling, expeditionary airfield, one primed and ready to receive and service combat forces.

We salute **Col. Bruce Barthold** and his AFCESA team, along with **Lt. Col. Nate Macias** and the members of Det. 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, *Silver Flag*, for putting on a great competition. At the same time, I would also like to thank those of you across the *Checkertail Clan* for doing all you did behind the scenes to support and assist the RC VII team along with the extra efforts you went through to make all of our visitors feel welcome. Comments throughout the week have been nothing but positive as folks recognized your efforts and commended you for your hard work. Thanks for helping us make it a great week for RC VII, Tyndall AFB and our Air Force! Please see this week's insert for the complete story...except the winners, which will be announced at the banquet tonight

and noted in next week's paper. As happens every week, I get the honor and privilege of telling you about members among us who have done well. This week, congratulations go to **Staff Sgt. Mark Rountree** of the family practice clinic who was selected to attend the **Physician Assistant Training Program** at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Upon completion, he will be promoted to second lieutenant. The selection process for this school is very keen and Mark is one of only 18 selected this year. Mark, all of Team Tyndall is proud of you. Congratulations!

Additionally, several of our members were recently selected to attend **Officer Training School: Senior Airman Clint T. Bremner**, 1st Fighter Squadron, **Airman 1st Class Michelle I. Nash**, 325th Training Squadron, **Staff Sgt. Christopher Roszak**, 361st Test Squadron and **Senior Airman Rex C. Vinales**, 2nd Fighter Squadron. Your experience as enlisted members will give you a head start in

becoming effective, well-rounded officers. Continue to strive to be the best, and the best will be yours.

Lastly, I received a very nice phone call this past week from a couple who really made me feel proud...and you should too! Seems that on Saturday they had a flat tire on Highway 98 across from our elementary school and were helped by two VERY PROFESSIONAL airmen who stopped to assist. They never caught their names but called to tell me how impressed they were that first, they stopped to help (so many today would have just driven on by...) and second that they were so polite and professional. Our visitors were very impressed. Gentlemen, I do not know who you are but please know that we appreciate what you did to assist folks in need and salute you for making us all look so good. *Thanks*.

Have a great Air Force week!

## Action Line



Staff Sgt. Mona Ferrell

**Kielan McGlynn, daughter of Airman 1st Class Kyle Stanfield, 325th Communications Squadron secure communications maintenance apprentice, receives an award during a drawing competition for Tyndall Elementary School's first grade junior achievement class from Brig. Gen. Buck Buchanan, 325th Fighter Wing commander Thursday.**

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For **fraud, waste and abuse** calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning **energy abuse** should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

**Brig. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III**  
325th Fighter Wing commander

# Trash on the ground can leave a ghastly image

**Master Sgt. Brenda L. Davis**  
2nd Fighter Squadron first sergeant

Silence. A light breeze brings the scent of salt from the gulf and sends wispy clouds across the face of a full moon. Suddenly, the peaceful silence is shattered by the sound of raucous voices made by "things that go bump in the night."

Come dawn, the residue of spirit activity is all around the base. Beverage containers, debris from a take-out restaurant, paper and other litter is apparent throughout the entire installation. No one knows how it happened. No one saw anything or anyone. It has to have been caused by poltergeists. Gone are the days when scores of airmen were sent to police

areas prior to reporting for duty everyday. Perhaps their spirits have returned to wreak havoc upon us.

Ghosts? It's possible, but doubtful. The responsibility of caring for our grounds and facilities are ours ... each and every one of us. Yes, we have housekeeping staff in many organizations and the grounds folks do a great job; however, they can't be everywhere at once, nor should they have to. We need to

have pride in our community and be willing to pick up litter whether we created it or not. On the operations side of the base, litter becomes foreign object damage and can endanger both lives and resources.

Working together, we can accomplish miracles and put the spirits of those not-so-long ago airmen to rest.





# Quarters authorization and convalescent leave

## Two forms of medical authorizations used for two different reasons



Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Capt. Mark Rosenberg, 325th Medical Group family practice physician, right, fills out a quarters notification slip for Master Sgt. Yolanda G. Ferguson, 1st Air Force logistics administration NCOIC.

**Maj. Patricia A. Caple**  
*3235th Medical Operations Squadron  
Health integration chief*

Almost everyone in the Air Force will be affected by convalescent leave or medical quarters at one point in their career. Whether it's for yourself, or one of your troops, it's important to know what to expect when these situations occur. To refresh your knowledge about these conditions, here's what you need to know.

Convalescent leave is not accrued like regular leave. Convalescent leave is a duty status for military members who have received medical care and require recovery time away from duty. Primary care managers may recommend convalescent leave for therapeutic reasons following hospitalization, major illness or injury or outpatient surgery. The physician most familiar with the member's needs recommends approval for convalescent leave.

PCMs only recommend convalescent leave; unit commanders are the approval authority for this type of leave. A civilian medical treatment facility may not place a military member on convalescent leave. If civilian medical care is used, the member must report to their PCM or designee no later than the next duty day for a military provider review.

Requests for convalescent leave are submitted on an Air Force Form 988, Leave Authorization Request, and it is the responsibility of the member to ensure this form is taken to their unit for

their commander's signature. Convalescent leave may be granted up to 30 days before requiring additional medical review and consent. An exception is the PCM may recommend up to 42 days of postpartum convalescent leave upon discharge. In these cases, convalescent leave begins the day of discharge from the hospital and continues through the day before the member's return to duty.

While quarters authorization is not leave, it is a status in which military members are placed under and excused from duty for medical purposes. All quarters authorizations must be initiated by a PCM assigned to the 325th Medical Group. Just like convalescent leave, a civilian medical treatment facility may not place a military member on quarters.

All military members who utilize civilian medical care must see their PCM or visit military sick call no later than the next duty day after civilian care was rendered.

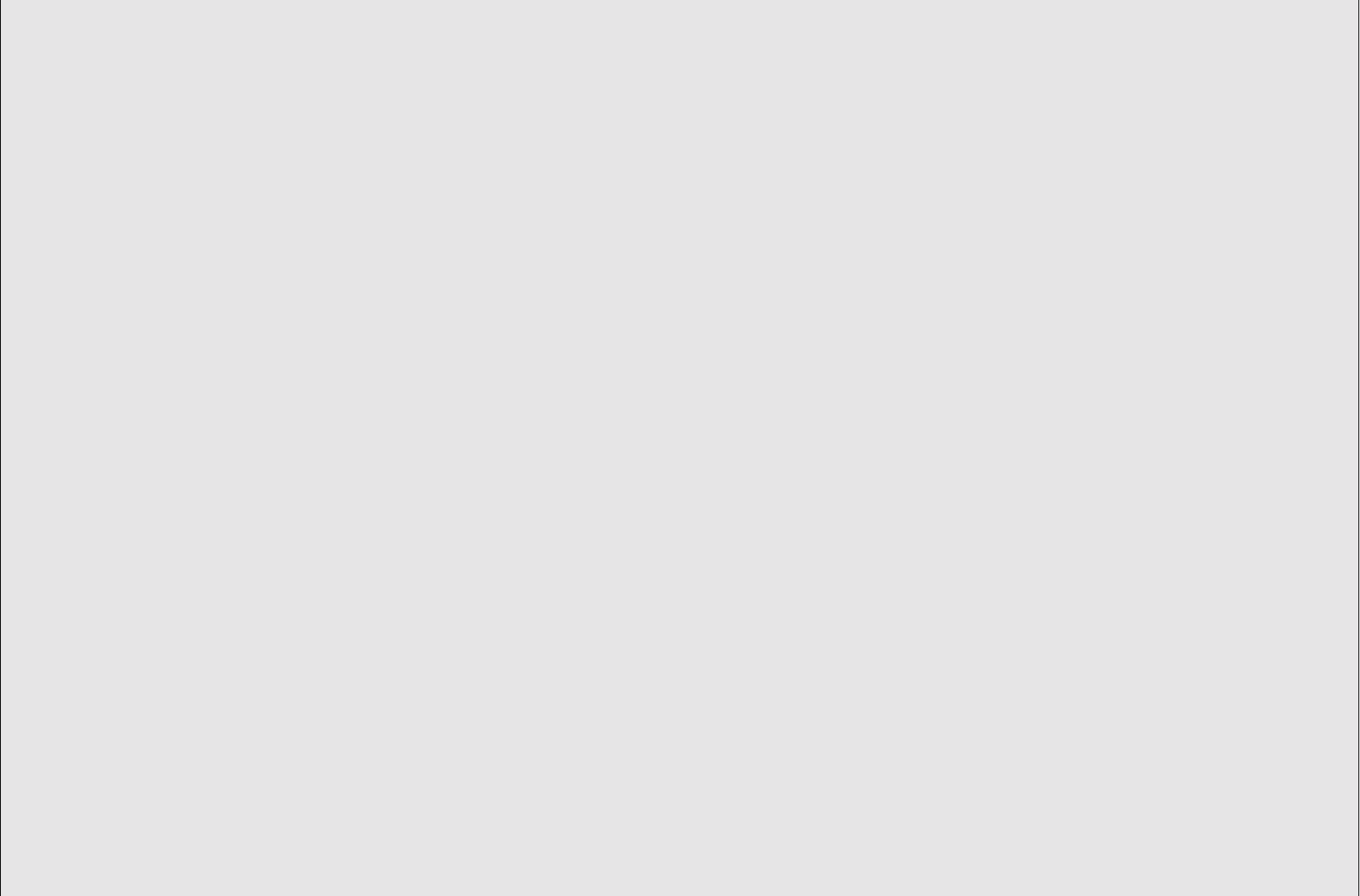
Quarters authorizations are given in 24-hour increments and can go up to 72 hours. Dormitory residents or members who live alone may be placed on quarters, however they must be evaluated daily by their PCM or designee.

Hopefully this answers the majority of the questions most-often asked about these two forms of medical authorizations. Whether it's yourself, or a subordinate who is put on quarters or convalescent leave, it's important to know the difference between the two medical authorizations. For more information, call Maj. Patricia A. Caple, 283-7506.



Take time  
with your  
kids  
Read to them  
learn together

A wealth of knowledge  
can be found inside the  
cover of a book. Take  
time to read, listen and  
learn with your children  
now — they'll thank you  
for it in the future.



## Tyndall’s chapel schedule

<b>Protestant</b>	Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapel 2
Communion Service 9:30 a.m. Chapel 1	Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Chapel 2
General Protestant Service 11:00 a.m. Chapel 2	Religious education: 10:40 a.m. Sunday, Chapel 2
Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Chapel 2	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:325fwhc@tyndall.af.mil">325fwhc@tyndall.af.mil</a>
Kids’ Club 2:45-5:45 p.m. Wednesday	Chapel 1: 283-2691
<b>Catholic</b>	Chapel 2: 283-2925
Daily Mass: noon Monday through Friday, Chapel 2;	Spiritual Maintenance: 283-2367
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday	<b>Other faith groups:</b> Call 283-2925

# Overseas EQUAL list set for Tuesday release date

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — The newest Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing of available enlisted assignments overseas arrives at military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center’s World Wide Web home page Tuesday.

This list includes assignments for

overseas jobs opening during the January through March 2001 time frame.

Personnel officials recommend assignment preferences are updated by May 19 to ensure the information is in the computer system before actual assignments are released on or about June 5.

EQUAL advertises upcoming

assignment requirements by Air Force Specialty Code and rank, and gives people a chance to update their assignment preferences to match vacancies that need filling in a particular cycle. Members should review, prioritize and list specifically those assignment options available to them on EQUAL.

Separate listings for assignments available at overseas locations as well as assignments available for those returning from overseas areas are published quarterly. Special duty assignments appear on EQUAL-Plus and are updated weekly.

The Tyndall military personnel flight and a member’s unit orderly room will have copies of the listings and can help people update their preferences. People who are on temporary duty during the advertising period should contact the nearest personnel office for assistance. People can also access the list on the AFPC home page at: [afpc.af.randolph.mil](http://afpc.af.randolph.mil).

## Quick, easy energy tips

- Office equipment can account for 10-20 percent of a building’s energy consumption. If a piece of equipment is not in use, turn it off.
- Use ventilating fans wisely. In just one hour, these fans can blow away a house full of warm or cool air.
- Replace bulbs throughout the house with bulbs of the next lower wattage.
- Keep appliances and equipment away from air-conditioner thermostats. Heat from the equipment causes the air conditioner to run.



# Feature

## On your mark ... get 'Ready' ... GO!

**Capt. Ted Hepperlen**

*325th Fighter Wing  
public affairs*

Team leaders yell to be heard over the din of hand tools whining, hurried conversations and equipment rattling and thumping. Gun shots and explosions echo in the distance. A forward base needs to be set up and time is short.

Actually, time is being kept. This isn't a scene from Desert Storm, Kosovo or another deployment, but of teams competing in one of the most realistic combat training environments available — Readiness Challenge VII.

"When we pick events for a Readiness Challenge, we assess the real threats our troops will face," said Chief Master Sgt. Randy Jones, Det. 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron site chief. "We go through our Silver Flag curriculum (the technical training for Air Force combat support specialists), and look at lessons learned from real deployments, then pick the things we see that would be needed to support deploying in that kind of threat area."

The 16 Air Force and international teams have spent the past six days living and working under the stress of competition in a contingency environment. As each day closes though, the scene changes to one reminiscent of a major sporting event. Each night, a ceremony is held as the points earned by each team that day are posted. Chants from the teams echo through the inside of the metal K-Span building as loud music pumps them up.

Certain scores have been held from the participants, so no one knows for sure the point totals of

any team. The final scores will be presented for the first time at the Readiness Challenge VII Banquet and Awards Ceremony 5:30 p.m. today in Hangar 4.

The secrecy surrounding the actual timing and makeup of the events rivals the planning of the D-Day invasion. Teams learn at the last minute what events they will participate in, what is expected and under what conditions they must perform. Only the two dozen event judges and their "trusted agents" know the actual events prior to the teams arriving, but there should be few surprises for the teams as they learn their events and schedules.

"Every procedure in the events is outlined directly in accordance with Air Force technical orders and Air Force instructions to ensure everything follows all Air Force guidelines," Readiness Challenge VII co-head judge Master Sgt. Clark Andrean said. "In addition, we send them a list of potential events well before the competition. However, none of the teams receive the final event list until everyone arrives the night before the competition starts."

A team's score is based on the amount of time they take accomplishing the main assigned task as well as the thought-process they follow in overcoming the obstacles given, Andrean said. The scorers then convert the time to points. Penalty time can be added to the total, but the opportunity to earn "bonus time", which is subtracted from the total time, keeps each team's innovative fires burning.

"Each event judge looks at their event and, through replaying the event several times, comes up with some actions they feel would aid a

team if they were carried out and should be worth bonus time," Readiness Challenge VII co-head judge Master Sgt. Diane Thrift said. "They then bring these ideas to the head judges, and we decide whether it is worthwhile and truly a help. Of course, the actual procedures that constitute the bonus time aren't given to the teams until they are finished competing."

This year's competition is taking on an international flavor with four international teams competing and observers from four additional countries considering sending their own teams.

"Most of the observers we have are weighing participation in a future event," said Lt. Col. Wayland Patterson, Readiness Challenge VII project officer. "Going back to Readiness Challenge III, we have a history of countries observing one competition then sending teams to the next one. The Canadians were the first, with three competitions under their belts, followed by the United Kingdom with one. This year we have teams from Japan and the Netherlands joining them."

The international competition is growing this year with two allied teams sponsoring events, one for the first time.

"Sponsoring an event means a team has developed the event and provided all of the material the competitors need," Patterson said. "At the last challenge the Canadian team sponsored an event, but this year we have the Canadians and the U.K. sponsoring events."

Observing this year are service members from France, Greece, Italy and the Republic of Korea.

In addition to the possibility of

fielding a future team, they are interested in picking up new airfield repair techniques said Greek Air Force Lt. Col. Georgios Xydonas.

"We are still making up our minds about future participation," Xydonas said. "But we definitely want to see the types of equipment used and techniques for airfield repair."

Maj. Alain Seville, representing the French Air Force, echos Xydonas' feelings but adds his own reasons for being here.

"France was integrated into NATO three years ago," he said. "We think it is important that we have the opportunity to work with these forces, and to share in the esprit de corps and teamwork that goes with it."

Col. Seung G Yi says the Republic of Korea already has identified a unit that they will send if what he observes justifies it.

"Our 91st Construction Division would benefit from the opportunity to practice their airfield repair skills and hone their general engineering skills," he said.

Italy also sent representatives from their Air Force and Army to observe.

"When we do something like this," said Lt. Col. Alberto Cambioni, Italian Air Force engineers representative. "We do it with the army, so the input from both services is necessary before we send a team."

Lt. Col. Marco Ciampini, representing the Italian Army engineers, says that he will report that his service could benefit from the competition.

"I believe we could benefit from the cooperation that exists here as well as the spirit of the competition," Ciampini said.



**Bottom far left: Services team members from the Air Force Academy Team from the 10th Air Base Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., hurry to get their M-2A burner lit Sunday.**

**Bottom left: Senior Airman Shane White from the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., uses a chainsaw to ventilate a room during fire rescue operations.**



Tech Sgt. Scott Thompson



Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman





Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman



Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman



Tech. Sgt. Scott Thompson



Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman

Top left: Tech Sgt. Timothy Francois and White, both of the 90th CES, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., carry out a simulated victim during fire rescue operations.  
Bottom Middle: A member of the Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, tightens the ropes on his team's tent.  
Top middle: Airman 1st Class Elden Pelletier helps his teammate Senior Airman Heath Shandy, both on the Air Combat Command team from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, over the last obstacle of the obstacle course.  
Bottom right: Japanese Air Force 1st Lt. Yoshiaki Matsuno, from Kouku-Shisetsutai, Tokyo, Japan, crosses a water obstacle during the team obstacle course contest.  
Top far right: Teams hurry to construct their temper tents Sunday morning during the head-to-head competition.  
Bottom far right: A team member from the 11th Wing, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C., watches the fire hose for leaks during live- fire operations.



Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman



Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman

# Two Team Tyndall NCOs court-martialed for embezzlement

Courtesy of the 325th  
Fighter Wing  
office of staff judge advocate

Two Team Tyndall members were court-martialed recently for embezzling money from the United States government.

Working separately, Master Sgt. William K. McManigal, former 325th Comptroller Squadron chief of customer service, and Staff Sgt. Donald B. Wardle, former 325th Fighter Wing Detachment 1, Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station travel pay technician, stole a combined amount of \$158,000.

On March 30, McManigal pled guilty to stealing nearly \$89,000 from the government over a four-year period. Col. Bruce Brown, Air Force Eastern Judiciary Circuit chief judge, sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for four years and reduction to the grade of E-4.

Prior to trial, McManigal and the 19th Air Force commander entered into a pretrial agreement which limited the amount of confinement that can be approved to three years in exchange for McManigal's guilty plea and full restitution of the money stolen.

McManigal led a double life. For over 20 years, he served the Air Force well and projected a great image for others to emulate. His knowledge of the finance system and management skills consistently brought him firewall performance reports and recognition by Air Education and Training Command as the go-to-expert in travel-pay matters. Secretly, over a four-year period, McManigal used his special knowledge and access to the travel-pay system to embezzle money from the government. He accomplished this by directing fraudulent travel payments to a fictitious person in such a way as to escape a review or audit.

McManigal used some of the stolen funds for a trip to Walt Disney World, down payments on a house and new car, carpeting, a refrigerator, home computer and payments on credit cards. His fraud was discovered when another finance NCO became suspicious about recurring payments to this fictitious person.

During sentencing, McManigal showed

genuine remorse and apologized to his unit and his family for his actions. Throughout the trial, and previously during the investigation of the case, he was forthright about his crimes.

Trial counsel asked the military judge to impose a sentence of a dishonorable discharge and six years' confinement. Defense counsel argued that this requested sentence was excessive, especially in light of the fact that a punitive discharge would result in a loss of McManigal's retirement pay. In rebuttal, trial counsel pointed out that McManigal had never earned his retirement because he began stealing after serving just 17 years.

The sentence imposed by the military judge, if approved by the 19th Air Force commander, will cost McManigal lengthy time in a military prison and the loss of an estimated \$600,000 in retirement pay.

An Air Force Audit Agency audit conducted as a result of McManigal's thefts also uncovered a similar pattern of thefts by Wardle. The two Air Force members were not working together.

On April 25, Wardle pled guilty to stealing approximately \$69,000, forgery and money laundering. He defrauded the government over a 12-month period. Col. Brown sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 30 months and a reduction to E-4.

During sentencing, Wardle apologized for his actions and claimed that he stole the money because he had a pathological gambling problem. He asked for mercy and for the judge to consider the fact that he had a special-needs child.

Trial counsel introduced evidence showing Wardle bought a new convertible sports car, paid for his wife's cosmetic surgery and invested in mutual funds during the period of the thefts. Trial counsel called two of Wardle's close friends to testify they were not aware of his compulsive gambling habit. Wardle did not make restitution to the government for the money stolen.

We are all victims of fraud and theft of government resources by military members. In order to function as an organization, the Air Force must place trust in each military member and civilian em-

ployee. Both McManigal and Wardle earned the confidence of their coworkers and gained a special position of trust over public funds. Their choice to abuse their positions is not reflective of the vast majority of our military community who embody the concepts of integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do. These two people are now paying for treating these core values as a convenient punchline to cover their crimes.

These crimes would not have been uncovered but for the diligent efforts of many people in the 325th Comptroller Squadron. Their efforts, and subsequent Air Force audit, will help close a weakness in the finance system, protect government resources from fraud and assist in future prosecutions of offenders.

Both members' sentences, as they were

imposed at a general court-martial, will be reviewed by the 19th Air Force commander. The convening authority has the right to adjust or modify the findings or sentence, but cannot add to the sentence. Their cases, as with any case in which a bad conduct discharge is adjudged, will be subject to appellate review before the sentence is finally approved.

In addition to any clemency granted by the convening authority, both McManigal and Wardle will receive six days a month good-time credit for each month of their approved sentence to confinement and will be eligible for parole after serving one-third of their time in confinement. The good-time credit serves in part as an incentive for military confinees to abide by prison rules and participate in rehabilitative programs.

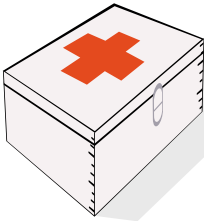


Master Sgt. Rob Fuller

## Man's best friend

Army Staff Sgt. Roger Young, Tyndall Veterinary Services NCOIC, examines Kirby while owner, Brenda Monteith, keeps him calm. Military members who have permanent change of station orders to Hawaii or the United Kingdom are asked to call the veterinary clinic upon receipt of orders if they wish to ship their pet. For more information, call Tyndall Veterinary Treatment Facility, 283-2434.

## Save a life; give blood



A Red Cross blood drive will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. today at the community activities center and noon-6 p.m. at the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group.

Give ... there's no better day than today!

For more information,  
call 2nd Lt. Roy Blanco, 283-4216.



# AAFES lowers two-party check-cashing policy

**DALLAS (AFPN)** — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is lowering its two-party check-cashing limit from \$300 to \$100, effective June 1. This policy change is necessary to help curtail fraudulent check-cashing schemes and to protect customers from the liability they incur when falling victim to cashing stolen, forged or insufficient fund checks.

Unfortunately, many of the victims are unknowing young service men and women or family members of customers in uniform. Although lowering the limit will not eliminate fraudulent check cashing schemes, it has worked to greatly reduce incidents of this nature where an installation commander has taken such action.

The new lower limit will not

apply to certain “safe checks” such as those issued by the U.S. Treasury and state governments. AAFES encourages its customers to review the check-cashing policy signs displayed at all of its facilities for complete details.

It is important for customers who attempt to cash two-party checks in an AAFES facility, or any bank or credit union, to understand that they, not the individual who originally wrote the check, will be held financially responsible for the check if it is returned.

Effective June 1, the following measures will also be implemented to help deter habitual bad check writers:

- If an individual presents four or more bad checks in a six-

month period, his or her check cashing and Exchange Credit privileges will be suspended indefinitely.

- If AAFES must take involuntary collection action for a returned check, the individual’s check cashing and exchange-credit privileges will be suspended indefinitely.

Every dollar lost to bad check writers results in higher prices for our customers and reduces the morale, welfare, and recreation dividends provided for the benefit of our military customers and their families. We are confident that these additional steps will help deter fraud and enable AAFES to continue offering check-cashing services at its worldwide facilities.

# DOD observes public service week

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — “Let the public service be a proud and lively career,” President Kennedy once said, and each year the nation honors those who heed the call to that proud and lively career with Public Service Recognition Week activities. The Defense Department will participate in this year’s observance, Monday through Sunday, with displays on the National Mall in Washington D.C. and events at military bases around the world.

Public Service Recognition Week honors government employees at all levels. It is endorsed by the president’s Interagency Council on Administrative Management and sponsored by the Public Employees Roundtable.

Defense agencies, the services and numerous other

public service organizations will have displays that were open to the public Thursday on the National Mall.

“The dedicated men and women working in local, state, and federal government strive each day to create a brighter future for our nation and for their fellow Americans,” President Bill Clinton said in a prepared statement. “During Public Service Recognition Week, I am proud to salute our nation’s public employees for their unwavering commitment to fulfilling America’s bright promise for all our citizens, and I thank them for their many contributions to improving the quality of our national life.”

## Spotlight



Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

### Senior Airman Ken Lee Beadle

**Squadron:** 325th Medical Operations Squadron  
**Job title:** Medical services journeyman - emergency medical technician  
**Years at Tyndall:** Three years  
**Years in Air Force:** Seven years  
**Hometown:** Cabot, Ark.  
**Why did you join the Air Force:** To travel while serving my country and to make my father proud of me.  
**Most exciting facet of your job:** Being the lead emergency medical technician on a serious 911 call, and helping people who need medical attention.  
**What do you do to keep fit:** Play sports, lift weights and run  
**Why do you work out:** It really helps me stay ready for duty physically, and it makes me look and feel better.

*(Editor’s note: May is Fitness Month. All spotlights will focus on Team Tyndall members who work out.)*

Your link  
to what's going on

# Gulf Guide

in the  
Tyndall community

MAY

**FRI 5** **Troy State University registration**

Registration for Troy State University's summer term is today through May 17 in the education center. For more information, call the education center, 283-4449.

**'Big Guns' softball tournament**

The 325th Medical Group's 'Big Guns' softball tournament is today and Saturday. The tournament is open to all squadrons, and the entry fee is \$100. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mark Thomas, 283-7591.

**Red Cross blood drive**

A Red Cross blood drive is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. today at the community activities center and noon-6 p.m. at the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group. T-shirts will be given to the first 200 donors. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Roy Blanco, 283-4216 or 2nd Lt. Dana Hosier, 283-4512.

**SAT 6** **Volkssport 10-kilometer walk**

The Panama City Volkssport Club's 10-kilometer walk will be Saturday beginning at the Ramada Inn on the corner of 10th St. and Beck Ave. Participants may start the walk any time between 8 a.m. and noon. Walkers have until 3 p.m. to finish. A shorter route will be available for those who do not wish to walk the full distance. For more information, call D.J. Moore, 871-2624 or Caroline Bagley, 234-5792.

**WED 10** **NCO Association meeting**

A Noncommissioned Officers' Association meeting will be 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the NCO Academy auditorium. Chief Master Sgt. Karl Meyers will be speaking on information received at the Air Force-wide Chief's Conference. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett, 283-8734.

**FRI 12** **Women's self-esteem seminar**

A seminar for adult women, 'Self Esteem in Women's Lives' will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 12 in the health and wellness center conference room. For more information, or to make a reservation, call the family advocacy center, 283-7272.

**Enlisted aide positions**

Enlisted aide positions with a suspense date of May 12 are available at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Applicants must be senior airmen and above. First-term airmen and selective reenlistment-bonus recipients are not eligible. Packages should be prepared in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2123 and mailed to: AFGOMO, Attention: Senior Master Sgt. Renee Starghill, 1040 Air Force Pentagon, Suite 4E212, Washington D.C. 20330-1040. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Renee Starghill, DSN 224-1204.

**SAT 13** **TBHC annual awards banquet**

The Tyndall Black Heritage Committee's Annual Awards Banquet will be 6-8 p.m. May 13 in the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. For more information, call Master Sgt. Dennis Moore, 283-4764.

**MON 15** **Asthma awareness seminar**

A health care providers' seminar, "Incidence, Diagnosing and Latest Concepts in Asthma Therapy," sponsored by Early Childhood Services will be 6:30 p.m. May 15 at the Lynn Haven Country Club. The featured speaker will be Dr. Randall F. Humphreys. For more information, call Elaine Vereen, 872-7550.

**AFA luncheon**

A joint quarterly luncheon of the Air Force Association's Loren D. Evenson Chapter and the Air Force Sergeants' Association's Paul Airey Chapter will be 11:30 a.m. May 18 at the Tyndall Officers' Club. Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold, 1st Air Force commander, will be the guest speaker. The cost of the luncheon is \$8. Anyone interested in attending can reply by May 15 to Maj. Yalda Clegg, 283-5440 or Senior Airman Vilmarys Crossen, 283-8024.

**TUE 16** **Sponsor training**

The family support center offers sponsor training at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call the family support center, 283-4204.

**WED 17** **Smooth-move workshop**

A smooth-move workshop will be 9 a.m.-noon May 17 in the family support center classroom. All military members, Department of Defense civilians and family members are invited. To make reservations, call the family support center, 283-4204.

NOTES

**Library volunteer openings**

Volunteer job openings are available at the Tyndall Library. Duties may include everything from storytelling to checking out materials. For more information, call Ken Horton at the family support center, 283-4204.

**Identification card renewal**

The 325th Mission Support Squadron's customer service advises anyone needing a new ID card to stop by their office 30 days before their card expires. For more information, call customer service, 283-2276.

**Aerobic classes**

Instructor-led aerobic classes will be 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the Tyndall Health and Wellness Center. Beginners and those with advanced fitness levels are welcome to come over and enjoy the classes. For more information, call the health and wellness center, 283-3826.

RETIREE NEWS

President Clinton signed the Senior Citizens' Freedom To Work Act of 2000 into law April 7. The legislation eliminates the Social Security retirement earnings test in and after the month in which a person attains full retirement age, currently age 65. The retirement earnings test has been a part of the Social Security program since its inception when there were five workers for every beneficiary. The legislation, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000, will affect around 800,000 beneficiaries who are either working or are dependents of workers. In addition, there are about another 100,000 persons who have not filed claims for benefits because they are working or because they are dependents of workers.

The legislation will allow these people to receive benefits this year when they file claims for benefits. About 415,000 of the affected beneficiaries have already had \$1.4 billion in Social Security benefits withheld because of the earnings test since Jan. 1. Each beneficiary is expected to receive a retroactive payment in May, averaging about \$3,500. Since the president signed the bill before mid-April, the Social Security Administration expects to make retroactive payments to beneficiaries and change monthly benefit payments to reflect the new law very soon.

YARD SALES

The following yard sales are scheduled for Saturday: 3524 Bullard Court, 3187-A Voodoo Drive, 2702 Eagle Drive and 2978-B Starfighter Ave. All yard sales are held between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BASE THEATER

**Today:** "Anna and the King" (PG-13, intense violent sequences, 149 min.)  
**Saturday:** "The Ninth Gate" (R, some violence and sexuality, 127 min.)  
**Sunday:** "The Ninth Gate" (R, some violence and sexuality, 127 min.)  
**Thursday:** "Here on Earth" (PG-13, some sensuality and thematic elements, 96 min.)

BERG LILES DINING FACILITY

**Today**  
Lunch: barbecued chicken, steak strips smothered in onions  
Dinner: tomato meat loaf, baked tuna and noodles

**Saturday**  
Lunch: stuffed green peppers, roasted turkey  
Dinner: herb-baked chicken, southern-fried catfish fillets

**Sunday**  
Lunch: vegetarian lasagna, chicken Parmesan  
Dinner: beef balls stroganoff, lemon-baked fish

**Monday**  
Lunch: beef pot pie with biscuit topping, chicken breast with orange glaze  
Dinner: Cajun meat loaf, crispy-baked chicken

**Tuesday**  
Lunch: pancit chicken, beef porcupines  
Dinner: grilled ham steak, chili macaroni

**Wednesday**  
Lunch: spaghetti with meat sauce, veal Parmesan  
Dinner: fish and chips, baked Italian sausage

**Thursday**  
Lunch: baked ham, hot and spicy chicken  
Dinner: pork chow mein, lemon-basted sole

Menus are subject to change.



# Complacency a hard lesson to learn

**Maj. Dale Rosenberg**  
*57th Component Repair Squadron commander*

**NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN)** — I was watching the History Channel the other day and ran across a very interesting documentary entitled, “Ghost Plane of the Desert: Lady Be Good.” It focused on the disappearance, and later discovery, of a B-24D Liberator lost during World War II. The aircraft departed from a base in Soluch, Libya in April 1943 as part of a 25-aircraft formation intending to strike Naples, Italy. About three-quarters of the way to the target, the group aborted the mission due to poor weather. When the aircraft aborted, they broke formation and came back as single ships. All the aircraft returned, except the Lady Be Good.

The last known radio transmission from Lady Be Good was a request to the home field for a radio course indication. After being several hours overdue, it was assumed the Lady Be Good was down, and search aircraft were dispatched to search for wreckage at sea. None was ever found, so it was assumed the Lady Be Good had crashed and sank with her crew.

In 1959, a British Petroleum oil survey crew was looking for oil in the African desert 440 miles from Soluch, Libya, where the Lady Be Good had been based. They discovered the wreckage of a B-24, which proved to be the Lady Be Good.

The Air Force dispatched investigators who made some startling discoveries.

First, none of the crew was in the Lady Be Good when it crashed, nor were their remains anywhere near

the aircraft. Second, the navigator made no log entries after the mission was aborted. Third, the navigator’s equipment and charts were stored in their cases. At this point, investigators concluded the navigator stopped doing his job shortly after they turned back for home.

Other bomber crews had reported higher than normal tail winds that night, but because the Lady Be Good’s navigator wasn’t doing his job, they flew right over their home field and kept on going. Lost and out of fuel, the crew bailed out. Several years later, BP surveyors located five of the nine crewmembers’ remains 80 miles from the original crash site.

Surveyors discovered a diary on one of the crew members that cleared up many mysteries. It told how one crewmember was killed instantly when his parachute failed to open. Daily entries described the harsh African desert conditions and the fact they had only one-half canteen of water for all of them, and no food.

Bottom line, the crew tried to walk out of the desert and covered 80 miles in eight days before they perished. It would be several years before two more of the crew were found about 25 miles from the others. The final crewman has never been found and is believed buried by years of blowing sand dunes.

So why do I tell this story and what lessons can we learn from it? Probably the biggest lesson is one that has literally thousands of examples in history: complacency has caused more accidents and fatalities than most diseases.

In the case of Lady Be Good, the crew got complacent about their jobs. Once they turned back, they were so relieved there was not going to be any more shooting, they

thought returning to home base would be a cake walk. They let down their guard, and in the middle of the biggest shooting war in history, died not from bullets or anti-aircraft fire but rather from complacency.

For those of us in the aircraft maintenance business, there is no more insidious enemy than complacency. A crew chief looks over the same airplane day in and day out, sometimes several times a day. He or she follows the same checklist until they know it by heart.

How many of you check your car’s engine oil at every gas fill up? You figure it was good before, so it’s good now. And pretty soon you get to the point where you never check it; you just wait until the next change is due. You are complacent. If your car motor runs out of oil you will need a new engine, but it’s not life or death.

However, if an F-16 aircraft engine runs out of oil, most likely the pilot is going to have a nylon letdown (ejection).

My point is, you must balance the possible consequences of your actions, or non-actions, with the seriousness of the work to be done. Anytime something becomes routine, be aware — complacency can sneak up and bite you.

Complacency can have catastrophic effects not just in the aircraft operations and maintenance world, but anywhere. The best way I have found to avoid complacency is to be aware. Pilots use a term called “situational awareness,” and that is what I mean by being aware.

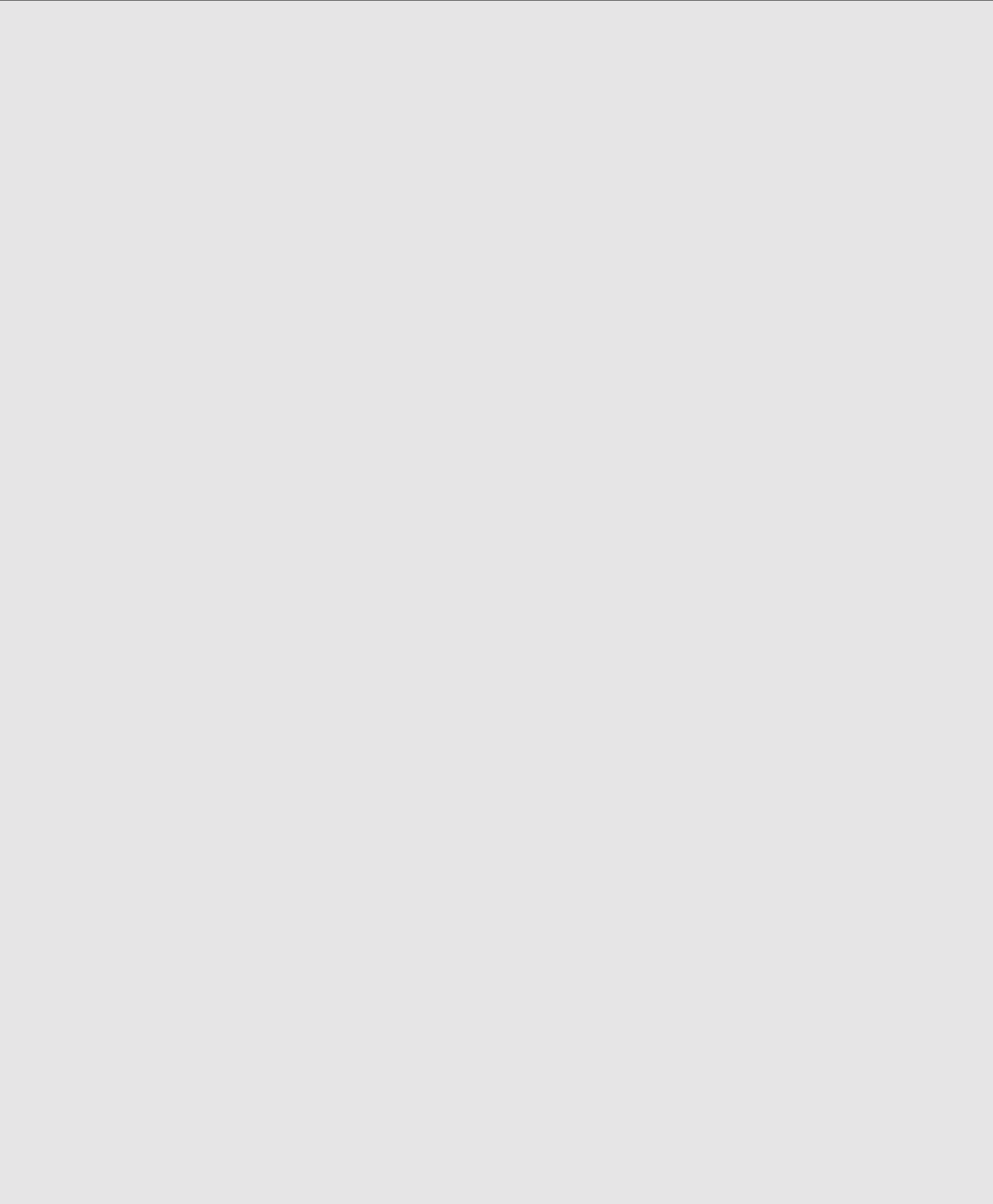
Understand the seriousness of what you are doing and what can happen if it isn’t done right, even if it seems routine. And if you’re not sure about something, ask. The answers and experts are out there.



Kevin Robertson

## See what?

Following application of the F-22 Raptor’s stealthy new “topcoat” of paint at Edwards AFB, Calif., a worker reapplies U.S. Air Force markings on the aircraft. Boeing developed the new paint, which will reduce vulnerability to infrared threats.





# Sports and fitness

## Stay safe in the water, be water smart

**Tech Sgt. Vincent C. Dotson**  
*325th Fighter Wing  
safety office*

One of the outstanding features of Tyndall is the natural beauty of the more than 93 miles of shoreline which surrounds the base. Many have enjoyed these beaches with friends and family.

With all this shoreline, there's no doubt most recreational activities done during Team Tyndall members off-duty time will be at or near the

**2nd Lt. Christian E. Randall, 1st Air Force logistics mobility chief walks along Tyndall's NCO club beach with daughters Chelsea, left, and Rachel, looking for seashells.**

water. However, being around water has its hazards.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Air Force has lost five military members as a result of drowning during water activities. Statistical analysis of these mishaps indicates that there aren't any age, rank, or geographical boundaries. Two of the five had companions and two others were swimming alone and intoxicated. The other swimmer was knocked unconscious after striking his head and was swept over a

waterfall.

If your plans include swimming, use your head for more than just diving into the water. As a swimmer, know your limits. Even if you are a strong swimmer, you can still exceed your abilities, especially if you get tired. Also, regardless of your swimming abilities, never swim alone. Use the buddy system and know the basics of first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The Red Cross routinely conducts training sessions for swimmers.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Although emergency phones, life rings and throw ropes are available at Tyndall Beach, everyone needs to be aware that the shoreline and beaches surrounding the base still present a hazard. The beaches on base are classified as unguarded beach areas — these are not designated swimming areas. Swimming in these waters is strongly discouraged. Trained lifeguards are not present to assist with an emergency.

Some other hazards with the waters surrounding Tyndall are:

- Dangerous currents — riptides and undertows: If caught in one, swim parallel to shore and angle toward the shore or the edge of the current until you reach safety.
- Discarded fishing lines and hooks, sharp rocks and shells: Wear surf shoes to protect your feet.
- Potentially dangerous marine life: While in the water, shuffle your feet to scare off stingrays and other dangerous sea life.

Here are some other hints for safe water activities:

- Know the hazards associated with alcohol consumption and swimming — never swim or operate a boat after consuming alcohol or using medication that may make you tired or affect your decision-making abilities.

- Don't swim alone.
- Assess the risks when swimming in unfamiliar waters.
- Stay close enough to the shore or pool's edge so you can swim to it safely by yourself.
- Never rely on floating toys, air mattresses or arm bands to prevent drowning.
- Certain water sports such as boating, water-skiing and surfing pose special-drowning dangers. If you are interested in taking up any water sport, learn how to swim beforehand.
- Never mix alcohol with any of these activities, it increases your risk.
- If boating, know the nautical rules and regulations.
- Always wear an approved flotation device.
- Check your equipment before engaging in any water sport to be sure it's in good operating condition.

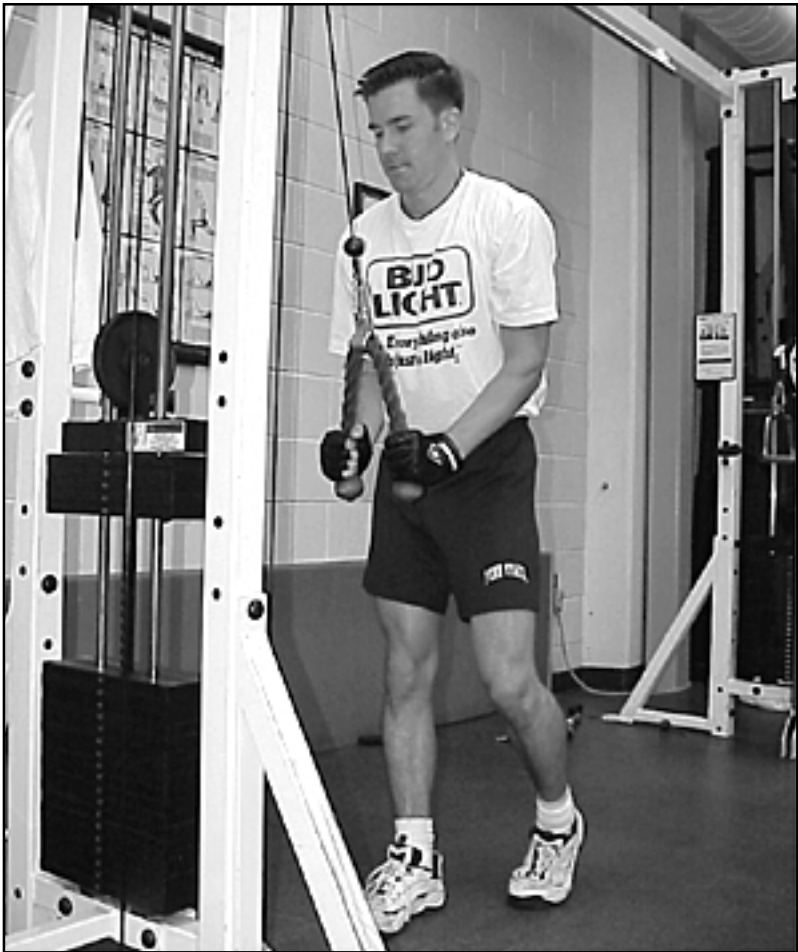
Finally, use risk management and avoid unnecessary risks. Drowning accidents are tragedies that can, in most cases, be prevented by making smart water-safety decisions. For the safest place to enjoy the water, visit the base pool, where trained lifeguards are on duty to protect you and your family. Following these tips will not only help you stay cool, but ensure you enjoy many more water activities in the future.



Another important facet of beach safety in sunny Florida is using sunscreen like Elena DiTuro, daughter of Master Sgt. Ronnie L. Jones, 130th Civil Engineer Squadron structural technician from Charleston, W. Va. Experts recommend using a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher.

Intramural golf	
Squadron	Total points
325 MXS	12
325 LSS 1	12
372 TRS	11.5
325 TRS	10.5
325 OSS	7.5
TEST 1	7.5
325 CES	6.5
95 FS	6
325 CONR 3	6
SOS	6
325 CONR 1	6
AFCESA	6
325 MSS	5.5
325 SFS	5.5
325 COMM	4.5
83 FWS	2
82 ATRS	1.5
2 FS	1.5
325 CONR 2	1
81 TSS	.5
325 LSS 2	.5
SEADS	0
RHS	0
TEST 2	0

Intramural volleyball		
Team	Wins	Losses
81 TSS	8	0
325 CONR	9	1
NCOA	8	1
325 COM 1	7	1
325 MDG	6	1
AFCESA	4	3
2 FS	6	2
325 CES	3	4
325 OSS	5	4
325 TRS	4	5
RHS	3	4
325 SVS	3	7
325 MXS	2	7
325 COM 2	2	8
325 MSS	2	9
1 FS	1	8
83 FWS	0	8



Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Just like pulling taffy...

Capt. Paul C. Burger, 325th Mission Support Squadron customer support section chief, lifts weights at the base gym on the adjustable high and low pulley-system machine. Lifting weights as part of an exercise program increases strength and builds muscle mass.